UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/1196
18 December 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 18 DECEMBER 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SUDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued on 17 December 1998 by the Ministry of External Relations of the Sudan concerning the United States and the United Kingdom aggression against Iraq.

I would be grateful if you could have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Elfatih ERWA
Permanent Representative

98-40013 (E) 211298 211298

/...

Annex

[Original: Arabic]

In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

The Republic of the Sudan
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Statement on the aggression carried out against Iraq by the United States of America and the United Kingdom

17 December 1998

When the whole international community was demonstrating its sympathy for the Iraqi people and stressing the importance of lifting the tyrannical sanctions imposed on fraternal Iraq, the United States of America and the United Kingdom launched a fresh military attack on Iraq, thereby increasing the suffering of its people, killing the innocent and destroying civilian installations.

This unjustified United States-United Kingdom aggression represents a shameless challenge to the will of the international community and shows complete disregard for international law. It reveals the premeditated purposes of the United States and the United Kingdom and their determination to serve their own political ends at a time when the Security Council was engaged in evaluating Iraq's cooperation with the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) and in estimating the extent to which the latter had fulfilled its mandate. The Secretary-General of the United Nations himself referred only a few days ago to the conflict between Washington's goals and the concerns of the Security Council as set forth in its resolutions on Iraq.

The United States has once again taken the law into its own hands, a behaviour utterly condemned by all those who are committed to international legitimacy and to international norms of civilized humanitarian conduct. That country continually attempts to hijack diplomatic activity that observes the proprieties and protects life, property and peoples' development efforts.

The Sudan declares its solidarity with fraternal Iraq and condemns and rejects the United States-United Kingdom aggression, which violates the sovereignty and integrity of a fraternal Arab State Member of the United Nations, and demands that this aggression be halted forthwith. Diplomatic efforts must be given the opportunity, by means of a complete review of UNSCOM activities, to establish the equitable measures required.

This United States-United Kingdom attack on an Arab Islamic State constitutes a provocation against Arab and Islamic sentiments and a violation of religious sensibilities at a time when the Arab and Islamic nation is preparing for the holy month of Ramadan.

While commending the position taken by those Security Council members who expressed their opposition to the military aggression, the Sudan calls upon the international community, as represented by the United Nations, and all fraternal and friendly States to assume their responsibility to uphold peace, security and stability in the region.